



## MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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### MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer

DATE: January 9, 2008

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XI: Consideration of resolution authorizing acquisition of APN 649-0-020-080, an approximately 2.5-acre property in the Box Canyon watershed using mitigation funds and the acceptance of private funds, unincorporated Ventura County. Negotiators: Joseph T. Edmiston and Earl Courtney. Under consideration: price and terms. (This item may be heard in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8).**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the acquisition of Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 649-0-020-080, an approximately 2.5-acre property in the Box Canyon watershed using mitigation funds and the acceptance of private funds, unincorporated Ventura County.

Background: The 2.5-acre property (APN 649-0-020-080) located in the Box Canyon watershed is part of the Critical Wildlife Movement Zone identified by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in its 1990 report "Critical Wildlife Corridor/Habitat Linkage Areas Between the Santa Susana Mountains, Simi Hills, and Santa Monica Mountains." The subject property also contains a portion of the Rim of the Valley Trail, which in this case is the North American Cutoff (a dirt road) sometimes referred to as Box Canyon Motorway. The subject portion of trail connects Sage Ranch to Box Canyon Road. It is a beautiful area with massive stone outcrops.

The small property makes incremental additions but carries important easement rights to use the motorway. In addition, it has easement rights for access from Box Canyon Road at a lower elevation.

Private funds would be used to pay for an increment of the cost greater than the appraised value.